

IV.—On the Collection of South African Mammals
in the Durban Museum,
by
P. S. Kershaw.

MR. E. C. Chubb, the Curator of the Durban Museum, Natal, recently sent to the British Museum a large collection of small mammals for identification, a description of which, it is thought, may prove of interest to mammalogists.

Specimens have been contributed by a great many collectors principally from Natal and Zululand, but also from Cape Colony, Portuguese East Africa and Rhodesia. Among the chief contributors may be mentioned Mr. P. A. Sheppard at Vumba, Gorongoya district, on parallel 20 S in Portuguese East Africa; Mr. W. E. Jones at M'Fongosi, Zululand; Mr. H. H. Swinny in the Port St. John district, West Pondoland; Mr. L. Bevis in Zululand and Natal; the Rev. R. Godfrey at Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony; and Mr. E. C. Chubb in various localities.

Out of the collection, two new forms, a *Pachyura* and a *Sylvisorex*, have emerged which are described in this paper. These together with nine other specimens have been presented to the British Museum.

1.—*GALAGO CRASSICAUDATUS UMBROSUS*, Thos.

♂. 13, 24, 65. Vumba, P.E.A.

No. 13 and 24 conform exactly to the type which is from North-East Transvaal. No. 65 has a suffusion of brown in the pelage, and the tail is coloured yellowish-brown throughout its length.

2.—*GALAGO CRASSICAUDATUS ZULUENSIS*, Elliot.

♂. 28, 29. Durban.

Another (1914), M'Fongosi, Zululand.

3.—*EPOMOPHORUS WAHLBERGI*, Sund.

♂. 1, 2. ♀. 3. Durban.

9, 10. Greenwood Park, near Durban.

♂. 4, 5, 6, 7. ♀. 8. Hillary, Natal.

♂. 11. Beaumont, Natal.

No. 2 has very pronounced bifid canines.

4.—*TAPHOZOUS MAURITIANUS*, Geoff.

♂. 2187. Durban. Fore-arm 63 mm.

5.—*RHINOLOPHUS HILDEBRANDTI*, Pet.

♂. 12. Sebakwe, Southern Rhodesia. Fore-arm 63 mm.

6.—*RHINOLOPHUS AUGUR ZAMBESIENSIS*, K. And.

♂. 5. Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. Fore-arm 54 mm.

7.—*RHINOLOPHUS AUGUR ZULUENSIS*, K. And.

♀. 324, 332. Estcourt, Natal. Fore-arms 52 mm.

8.—*HIPPOSIDEROS CAFFER*, Sund.

♂. 3, 4, 9, 12, 13. ♀. 2, 10, 11. Ngxwala Hill, Ubombo district, Zululand.

Nos. 4, 9, 10 and 12 are in the rufous stage.

Fore-arms ♂. 48, 48, 48·7, 46, 46·5. ♀. 47·3, 45·5, 47·3 mm.

9.—*PIPISTRELLUS NANUS*, Pet.

♂. 11, 12. ♀. 14, 18. Vumba, P.E.A.

♂. 19. Umbilo, Durban.

— . 45. Umkomaas, Natal.

Fore-arms of the Vumba specimens 30, 30, 32, 31·5 mm.

10.—SCOTOPHILUS NIGRITA DINGANI, Smith.

♂. 834. Moseley, Natal.

♂. 6th April, 1914. Durban.

--. No locality.

Fore-arms 51, 53, 51 mm.

11.—CHÆREPHON PUMILUS, Cretzsch.

♂. 851. Berea, Durban.

♂. 21st October, 1913. Durban.

-. 995. Moseley, Natal.

Fore-arms 37, 38, 37.8 mm.

The distinction between *C. pumilus* and *C. limbatus*, Pet., is one of colour only. The measurements are the same in both species and give no assistance.

On the material at present available in the British Museum, it would seem that the two are in reality the same species. They are never found together in any one area, but grade into one another somewhat as follows. *Pumilus* holds North-East Africa, south to Kenia and Kilimanjaro, where it begins to grade into *limbatus*. *Limbatus* extends down to Zambesia in the south and into Angola on the west. South of Zambesia *pumilus* reappears.

It is often impossible to decide to which species specimens obtained in the gradation areas should be assigned. The amount of white on the under-surface and the colour of the wings vary in British Museum specimens according to locality and may be set out thus :

Assigned to *pumilus*.

- (a) Little or no trace of white. Occasionally a few white hairs at elbow or base of thighs. Wings dark brown. Sudan and Natal.
- (b) A conspicuous band of white hairs between wing and body. Wings dark brown. Kenia and Kilimanjaro.

Assigned to *limbatus* :

- (c) Under-surface white, except throat and upper chest. Wings white with greyish tips. Zanzibar.

- (d) Central area of under-surface and band between wing and body white. Wings white with greyish tips. Nyasaland and Angola.
- (e) White of under-surface much reduced. Wings whitish to greyish-brown. Tette, Zambesia.

When further material is available, it will be possible to establish definitely the affinities of the two species.

C. hindei, Thos., with a fore-arm of 40 mm., and *C. pumilus naivashæ*, Holl., with a fore-arm of 42 mm., are larger forms.

12.—PETRODROMUS (MESOCTENUS) ROVUMÆ, Thos.

♂. 17th October, 1918. ♀. 17th October, 1918. Lumbo, on the mainland opposite Mozambique.

13.—BEMATISCUS TREVELYANI, Günth.

♂. 2098. Port St. John district, W. Pondoland.

14.—CHRYSOSPALAX VILLOSUS, Smith.

♀. 12th December, 1904. Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzburg.

15.—AMBLYSOMUS HOTTENTOTTUS, Smith.

♂. 208, 469, 471, 829, 935 (2), 954. 5th March, 1912, 15th March, 1912, 17th March, 1914. ♀. 1051. Durban.

♂. 846. Lower Umgeni, Victoria County.

♂. 500. Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

♂. 1031, 1100. 6th August, 1912. ♀. 1010. Port St. John district, W. Pondoland.

Broom, who has had before him for examination in South Africa very extensive material is of opinion (Trans. S. Afr. Phil. Soc., vol. 18, pt. 3, p. 295; 1907) that the sub-species *A. h. pondolia*, Thos. & Schwann, of Pondoland, cannot be maintained.

16.—*AMBLYSOMUS LONGICEPS*, Broom.

♀. 307. Estcourt, Natal.

Skull: greatest length 29 mm.; least interorbital breadth 9·3 mm. This form was originally described by Broom as a sub-species of *A. hottentottus*, but the cranial characters and the fact that it lives side by side with *hottentottus* in Natal give it a title to full specific rank.

17.—*MYOSOREX VARIUS*, Smuts.

♀. 72, 145. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

♂. 560. ♀. 4. Umbilo, Durban.

— 500 (2). Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

18.—*MYOSOREX SCLATERI*, Thos. & Schwann.

♂. 1021, 1027, 1039. Port St. John district, W. Pondoland.

19.—*MYOSOREX TENUIS*, Thos. & Schwann.

♂. 25. ♀. 29. Vumba, Gorongoza, P.E.A.

20.—*PACHYURA CHRISEOS*, sp. nov.

A very small, short-furred species, allied to *P. infinitesima*, Hell., of British East Africa, but smaller.

General colour a deep brown, a trifle lighter than "seal-brown." Under-surface silvery-grey. Tail short and cylindrical, not incrassated at base, "seal-brown" above, paler below, with the long hairs white, and fairly numerous. Feet white.

The second and third unicuspid about equal in height viewed laterally; the fourth, though of fair size, is smaller than in *infinitesima*, and not so clearly visible externally.

Dimensions of the type, measured in the flesh: head and body 47; tail 31; hind foot 8; ear 6 mm.

Skull: condylo-incisive length 14·5; breadth of brain-case 6·8; length of upper tooth-row 5·6 mm.

Hab. Durban.

Type. Adult female (found making a nest in grass under an iron sheet). B.M., no. 20.8.30.2. Collected by Mr. E. C. Chubb.

Heller, in describing *P. infinitesima*, says that it is the smallest African race (always excepting Madagascar). But this position is really held by *P. gracilis*, described by Blainville in 1838 from the Cape. The head and body of *gracilis* measure 43, and the tail is 26 mm. *P. chriseos*, while smaller than *infinitesima*, is not so minute as *gracilis*. *P. chriseos* also differs from them both in colour, and from *gracilis* again by not having an incrassated tail.

Another small South African shrew of this genus is *P. varilla*, Thos., which has long soft variegated fur, and a skull of 17.4 mm.

21.—SYLVISOREX GEMMEUS SHEPPARDI, sub-sp. nov.

A large form of *gemmeus*. The colour is rather lighter than Ridgway's "seal-brown" and the under-parts are "smoke-grey."

Measurements: head and body 83; tail 84; hind-foot 14 mm.

Skull (posterior portion damaged): length of palate on medial line to front of incisors 8.1; upper tooth-row 7.8; p^4 - m^2 , 4 mm.

Hab. Vumba, Gorongoza, P.E.A., Alt. 4,300'.

Type. Adult male. B.M., no 20.8.30.1. Collected by Mr. P. A. Sheppard (original no. 2).

This long-tailed shrew is distinguished from the other forms of *gemmeus* by its larger size and its comparatively shorter tail.

22.—CROCIDURA NYANSÆ, Neum.

♂. 57. Vumba, Gorongoza, P.E.A.

Indistinguishable from *nyansæ* of the Lakes and Sudan.

23.—CROCIDURA FLAVESCENS, Geoff.

♂. 22, 58, 100. ♀. 95. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

♂. 1002, 1003, 1029. Port St. John district, W. Pondoland.

♀. 319. Estcourt, Natal.

♀. 39. Umkomaas, Natal.

— 12th July, 1911. Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

24.—*CROCIDURA HEIRÆ*, Doll.

♀. 54. Vumba, Gorongoza, P.E.A.

25.—*CROCIDURA HIRTA FLAVIDULA*, Thos. & Schwann.

♂. 102, 105, 117. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

♂. 484 (3 young specimens). 20th February, 1914. ♀. 1226, Durban.

This is a stumpy-tailed form with a larger skull than *C. martensi*. The skulls of the specimen obtained on 20th February, 1914, and no. 1226, are exceptionally large, being 25.5 and 25 mm. respectively.

26.—*CROCIDURA MARTENSI*, Dobs.

♂. 1014, 1016. Port St. John district, W. Pondoland.

♂. 13, 15, 16, 17, 18. Umbilo, Durban.

♂. 500 (2 specimens). Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

27.—*CROCIDURA SYLVIA*, Thos. & Schwann.

♂. 547. Elandslaagte, Natal.

28.—*FELIS NIGRIPES*, Burch.

Ac. no. 357. An example from Bechuanaland, which died in the Durban Zoo.

29.—*GENETTA TIGRINA*, Schreb.

♀. 2460. Verulam, Natal.

30.—*GENETTA RUBIGINOSA*, Puch.

♂. 23, 69. ♀. 20, 67. Vumba, P.E.A.

♂. 574. Hillary, Natal.

31.—*HERPESTES SANGUINEUS CAUUI*, Smith.

♀ . 27 Vumba, P.E.A.

Another example without label.

It is worth noting that *H. s. punctulatus*, Gray, from Natal, is considered by Wroughton (Ann. Mag. N. H. (7) xx, p. 120, August, 1907) as a synonym of *cauii*, but Matschie (S.-B. Ges. nat. Fr. Berlin, 1914) considers Gray's form distinct.

32.—*MUNGOS MUNGO*, Gmel.

♂ . 17, and another from Umkomaas, Natal.

This name replaces "*Crossarchus fasciatus*," Desm. (V. Allen, Journ. of Mamm., i, p. 27; 1919).

33.—*ATILAX PALUDINOSUS*, Cuv. = *HERPESTES GALERA*.

♀ . 1. Durban.

34.—*ICTONYX STRIATUS*, Perry. = *MEPHITIS CAPENSIS*, Smith.

♀ . 15. No locality given.

35.—*POECILOGALE ALBINUCHA*, Gray.

1663. Bellair, near Durban.

36.—*GRAPHIURUS MURINUS*, Desm.

♂ . 950. Red Hill, Natal.

♀ . 500. Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

37.—*GRAPHIURUS MICROTIS*, Noack.

♀ . 18. Bulawayo.

38.—*TATERONA INCLUSA*, Thos. & Wrought.

♂. 110, 114. ♀. 101, 103, 106, 107, 108, 115, 116. Umvuazi River, P.E.A.

39.—*DENDROMUS PUMILIS*, Wagn.

♀. 31st August, 1914. Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

— 8th April, 1915. Ngxwala, Ubombo district, Zululand.

40.—*DENDROMUS JAMESONI*, Wrought.

♂. 64. ♀. 96, 109, 110. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

♂. 1034. ♀. 1004, 1033. Port St. John district, W. Pondoland.

The dorsal stripe in the W. Pondoland specimens is faint but not absent as in *pumilio*.

The type locality of *D. jamesoni* is the Zoutpansberg district, N.-E. Transvaal, but it extends south into Pondoland and Natal, where it dwells side by side with the larger species *D. mesomelas*, Brants.

An average taken of the above seven specimens, all adult, compares with *mesomelas* as follows:

	Head and Body.	Tail.	Hind-foot.	Skull. Greatest Length.
	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>	<i>mm.</i>
<i>D. mesomelas</i>	76	100-105	21-22	23
<i>D. jamesoni</i>	62	82	17	20

41.—*DENDROMUS (POEMYS) MELANOTIS*, Smith.

♀. 17th June, 1917. Krantz Kloof, Natal.

42.—*STEATOMYS PRATENSIS*, Pet.

♀. 119, M'Fongosi, Zululand.

43.—*GRAMMOMYS SURDASTER*, Thos. & Wrought.

♂. 5, 60. Vumba, P.E.A.

44.—*RATTUS RATTUS*, Linn.

♂ . 32, 42, 58. ♀ . 49, 61. Vumba, P.E.A.

45.—*RATTUS* (*AETHOMYS*) *PÆDULCUS*, Sund.

♂ . 106. ♀ . 97, 120. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

Another without label.

46.—*RATTUS* (*AETHOMYS*), sp.

♀ . 186. Bulawayo.

A tree-rat with belly hairs white to the base, allied to *R. pædulcus* but larger and with much longer tail. There is unfortunately no skull.

47.—*RATTUS* (*AETHOMYS*) *CHRYSOPHILUS*, sub-sp.

♂ . 20, 101. ♀ . 9, 138. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

♂ . 12. Umbilo, Durban.

♂ . 27th March, 1911. Durban.

There is much variation in these specimens. Some might be attributed to *R. c. acticola* (from the coast region between the Zambesi and Limpopo Rivers), while others from the same locality could just as readily be assigned to the sub-species *tzaneensis* (from the N.E. Transvaal).

48.—*RATTUS* (*AETHOMYS*) *CHRYSOPHILUS ACTICOLA*, Thos. & Wrought.

♂ . 19. Vumba, P.E.A.

♀ . 104, 109. Umvuazi River, P.E.A.

49.—*LEGGADA MINUTOIDES*, Smith.

♂ . 1042. ♀ . 1009, 1015. Port St. Johns district, W. Pondoland.

♂ . 27th August, 1914. Umbilo, Durban.

50.—*LEGGADA BELLA MARICA*, Thos.

♂. 94, 104, 108. ♀. 118. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

51.—*SACCOSTOMUS CAMPESTRIS*, Pet.

♂. 74, 91. ♀. 80, 92. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

♀. 66. Vumba, P.E.A.

52.—*ACOMYS SELOUSI*, de Wint.

♂. 647. Sebakwe, S. Rhodesia.

53.—*DASYMYS INCOMTUS*, Sund.

♂. 67, 90. ♀. 71. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

54.—*LEMNISCOMYS GRISELDA SPINALIS*, Thos. = *MUS DORSALIS*, Smith.

♂. 68, 79, 107, 113. M'Fongosi, Zululand.

♀. 1615. Coguno, Inhambane, P.E.A.

55.—*LEMNISCOMYS GRISELDA CALIDIOR*, Thos. & Wrought.

♂. 41. Vumba, P.E.A.

56.—*RHABDOMYS PUMILIO DILECTUS*, de Wint.

♂. 33, 47. ♀. 1, 46. Vumba, P.E.A.

57.—*RHABDOMYS PUMILIO CHAKÆ*, Wrought.

♂. 315, 317. ♀. 313, 314. Estcourt, Natal.

♂. 14. Umbilo, Durban.

58.—*OTOMYS IRRORATUS*, Brants.

♂. 22nd August, 1910. Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

59.—*OTOMYS IRRORATUS CUPREUS*, Wrought.

♂. 4, 38. ♀. 22. Vumba, P.E.A.

60.—*OTOMYS ROWLEYI*, Thos.

♂. 44. ♀. 3, 6. Vumba, P.E.A.

This species differs from *O. irroratus* by having 7 laminae in m^3 instead of 6, and by the absence of any angular corner in the nasal sutures.

61.—*MYSTROMYS ALBICAUDATUS*, Smith.

♂. 327. Estcourt, Natal.

62.—*CRYPTOMYS JORISSENI*, Jameson.

♂. 28, 39. ♀. 37, 40, 50, 55. Vumba, P.E.A.

63.—*CRYPTOMYS HOTTENTOTTUS*, Less.

♂. 7. 27th July, 1914, and young specimen. Durban.

♂. 13th October, 1910. Pirie, Kingwilliamstown, Cape Colony.

♀. 304. Estcourt, Natal.

— 4. Umzimkulu, Griqualand East.

— 139, 266, 267 (skulls only). No locality given.